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PAUL D. TONKO

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
20TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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SUBCOMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

June 21, 2018

The Honorable William B. Long
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Administrator Long,

I write today concerning the request recently submitted to your agency by the New York Power Authority ("Power Authority"; "the applicant") regarding Guy Park Manor State Historic site ("Guy Park Manor") located in Amsterdam, New York (PW Reference Number UDCBQ88). I have enclosed correspondence from Ms. Barbara Lee Steigerwald, Deputy Commissioner for Disaster Recovery within the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, along with the applicant's project worksheet for your office's review and consideration.

The historic Guy Park Manor is listed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places and is recorded as the oldest residence in the city of Amsterdam. Guy Park Manor's historical significance to the city and the region dates back to its construction in 1766 when it served as home to Guy Johnson, relative to Sir William Johnson, First Baronet of New York and British Superintendent for Indian Affairs during the French and Indian War. Over the course of two and a half centuries, Guy Park Manor has maintained both residential and commercial function, including lodging for the colonial army during the Revolutionary War Era, a tavern and stagecoach stop in the early nineteenth century, housing for the Walter Elwood Museum of the Mohawk Valley in 2009, and serving as the location for my district office for several terms of my tenure with the New York State Assembly.

In August of 2011, Hurricane Irene tore through upstate New York, devastating tens of thousands of homes, farms and businesses in my Congressional District. Guy Park Manor suffered catastrophic interior and exterior structural damage due to severe flooding from the Mohawk River and high wind gusts. Because of this, the building became uninhabitable, and has been sitting vacant since.

As you can see from the enclosed documentation, at the time of the incident, the New York Power Authority assumed responsibility for Guy Park Manor following the reconstitution of the New York State Canal Corporation as a division within the Power Authority effective January 1, 2017. The project worksheet request from the applicant was submitted to your agency on May

21, 2018 and indicates a desired completion date for this project of September 30, 2020. The cultural and economic impact the restoration of Guy Park Manor will have on the city of Amsterdam, the Capital Region and to the State of New York is significant and is expected to spur further revitalization endeavors within Amsterdam and in the surrounding community. Therefore, I am respectfully requesting expeditious review and adjudication of the New York Power Authority's request and prompt issuance of any and all permitted reimbursements for this project.

Your consideration of this request, consistent with all applicable laws, rules, regulations and policies, is appreciated. Please send your reply to my Albany District Office, located at 19 Dove Street, Suite 302, Albany, New York 12210. Given the time-sensitive nature of this matter, I kindly ask for your reply within thirty days of this correspondence.

Should you have further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of my staff by telephone at 518-465-0700. My District Director, Colleen Williams can be reached directly at colleen.williams@mail.house.gov. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul D. Tonko". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paul" and last name "Tonko" clearly distinguishable.

Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress

PDT/cew
Enclosures